

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

SUB 817

1. A method of providing links to remotely located information in a network of remotely connected computers, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs);
 - b) logging associated shorthand links in a registry database;
 - c) searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and
 - d) for each found said shorthand link, fetching said associated URL.
2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step (a) of associating shorthand links comprises the steps of:
 - i) requesting registration of a URL;
 - ii) selecting an unused key; and
 - iii) pairing said selected key with said URL as a shorthand link.
3. A method as in claim 2, wherein each key-URL pair is entered in the registry database.
4. A method as in claim 3, wherein said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having selected said shorthand link.
5. A method as in claim 3, wherein said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having provided the paired key of the key-URL pair.

1 6. A method as in claim 5, wherein an error message is returned whenever a
2 requestor provides a key not paired with a URL.

1 7. A method as in claim 5, wherein when a provided key not associated with a URL
2 is identified as corresponding to a key in a key-URL pair, presenting the identified URL
3 to said requestor.

8. A method of providing links to remotely located information in a network of remotely connected computers, said method comprising the steps of:

- associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of files at a remotely connected location;
- indexing shorthand links and associated files;
- searching said index for a shorthand link associated with one of said plurality of files responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and
- for each shorthand link found, fetching the associated indexed file.

1 A17 9. A method as in claim 9, wherein the step (a) of associating shorthand links
2 comprises the steps of:
3 i) creating a list of files at said remotely connected location; and
4 ii) selecting and associating an unused key with each listed file.

13 10. A method as in claim 9, wherein said fetched file is presented to a requestor, said
2 requestor having selected said shorthand link.

1 11. A method as in claim 9, wherein said fetched file is presented to a requestor, said
2 requestor having provided the key associated with the fetched file.

- 1 16. A computer program product as in claim 15 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for maintaining said database of
3 registered key-URL pairs.
- 1 17. A computer program product as in claim 16 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for presenting an URL to a requestor
3 responsive to said requestor selecting an associated shorthand link.
- 1 18. A computer program product as in claim 16 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for presenting an URL to a requestor
3 responsive to said requestor providing a corresponding paired key.
- 1 19. A computer program product as in claim 18 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
3 a paired key; and
4 computer readable program code means for indicating an error whenever said
5 provided key is determined not to be a paired key.
- 1 20. A computer program product as in claim 18 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
3 a paired key;
4 computer readable program code means for determining whether said provided
5 key corresponds to a paired key whenever said provided key is determined not to be a
6 paired key; and
7 computer readable program code means for presenting an URL paired with said
8 corresponding identified key.

21. A computer program product for providing links to remotely located information in a network of remotely connected computers, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for associating a shorthand link with each of a plurality of files at a remotely connected location;

computer readable program code means for indexing shorthand links and associated files;

computer readable program code means for searching said index for a shorthand link associated with one of said plurality of files responsive to selection of said link; and

computer readable program code means for fetching an associated indexed file for each found said shorthand link.

22. A computer program product as in claim 21, wherein the computer readable program code means for associating shorthand links comprises:

computer readable program code means for creating a list of files at said remotely connected location; and

computer readable program code means for selecting and associating an unused key with each listed file.

23. A computer program product as in claim 22, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for receiving an indication of selection of a shorthand key.

24. A computer program product as in claim 23, wherein an associated key is provided to request said file.

25 A computer program product as in claim 24 further comprising:
computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
associated with an indexed file; and
computer readable program code means for indicating an error whenever a
provided key is determined not to be associated with an indexed file.

26. A computer program product as in claim 24 further comprising:

- computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is associated with an indexed file;
- computer readable program code means for determining whether said provided key corresponds to a key associated with an indexed file whenever said provided key is determined not to be associated with an indexed file; and
- computer readable program code means for presenting the indexed file associated with said corresponding identified key.